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KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1962



KINGSBRIDGE:
LUGGER BROS., PRINTERS, 83, FORE STREET.

Kingsbridge Rural District Council.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246/7.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health : R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health : W. H. COWPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Chief Public Health Inspector : D. J. COLE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector : W. J. LAND, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Administrative Assistant (1/1/62 to 30/9/62) : J. E. MILLER, M.B.E.,
E.D., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1962.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1962.

The area is mainly agricultural, although on the coast many of the inhabitants are employed in seafaring pursuits. The beauty of the whole area, coast and inland, attracts many visitors throughout the year, the largest number, naturally, being during the summer months. Catering for these visitors is one of the main sources of livelihood for many residents of the district. There are, situated geographically within the district, the Urban Districts of Kingsbridge and Salcombe.

PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The personal health services are provided by various bodies, by far the greater part being under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, Devon County Council and the Local Executive Council. The environmental health services are controlled by the District Council.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory in Plymouth for the investigation of communicable diseases and the examination of milk, water, ice cream, foodstuffs, etc.

The Devon County Health Handbook gives details of the health and allied social services in the County of Devon. Much of its information refers to the County as a whole, but there are details of the various services provided in this district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were four cases of infectious diseases during the year.

FOOD POISONING.

The cases of food poisoning and dysentery were isolated. No cause could be found in either case.

WATER SUPPLY.

The general supply is the South Devon Water Board. Moorland water from Dartmoor is supplied, being held before treatment in a reservoir formed by the Avon Dam. The water is treated by flocculation and filtration and it is chlorinated, the pH being adjusted before putting it into supply. There is also now an additional source of supply from the Ranney Works on the River Dart. This has proved to be a most economical and efficient system.

The quality of the water is of a very high standard and is adequate in quantity for the needs of the district. Frequent samples for chemical analysis are taken, all of which proved satisfactory. There is a continuing extension of the mains to take water to the remoter parts of the district.

Copies of reports on all samples taken by the Board are forwarded to this Department. We are kept fully informed on all matters of interest connected with water, for which I should like to express my gratitude.

Samples of water are taken in schools by the County Public Health Department. Copies of these reports are received.

There are a number of small private supplies. Inspection of these and sampling of the water is carried out as necessary.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The conveniences at Thurlestone Sands have been completed. Conveniences are still needed at Strete Gate, Millbay Sands, Wonwell, Soar Mill and Lannacombe.

HOUSING.

A number of unfit houses have been represented and closed in order that they be improved. Where it is possible to persuade owners to make houses fit, after re-housing the tenants, although the cost may be unreasonable, this is being done. The re-housing of the tenants is often one of the main difficulties to be overcome, but considerable progress has been made.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This work is still not being done as completely as one would wish, especially the inspection of hotels and boarding houses. Unfortunately when the need for their inspection is greatest, the Public Health Inspectors are most occupied with other essential work.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

October, 1963.

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report

OF

The Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1962.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit the following report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1962.

SEWERAGE.

BROWNSTON. No movement has yet been made to improve the drainage system at this hamlet, but a sewage disposal system is certainly required.

KINGSTON. Conditions at the new disposal works have remained unsatisfactory due to the excessive quantity of surface and subsoil water entering the works through the old sections of sewers.

MALBOROUGH. The northern side of the village has now been re-sewered and a pumping station constructed to pump sewage into the main disposal works. This work has resulted in a great improvement in conditions in the northern part of the village.

GALMPTON. The work of constructing new sewers and disposal arrangements for Outer Hope Cove and Galmpton has not yet been started. The area is developing rapidly and some difficulty has been experienced in estimating future requirements. There is a danger that due to the time taken to complete sewerage schemes from inception to completion, new works in some areas may become inadequate soon after completion.

RINGMORE AND SHERFORD. New schemes for these two villages are well under way and it is anticipated that they will be completed at an early date.

SOUTH MILTON. The proposal to replace the old works with a pumping station to convey sewerage from the Thurlestone Sands area to the new disposal works at South Milton is well forward and work should commence at an early date.

OTHER SCHEMES. Schemes for dealing with sewerage and sewage disposal at West Charleton, South Pool and Strete are still in the hands of the Consulting Engineers. Reports and details are also awaited for dealing with unsatisfactory conditions at two old disposal works at Loddiswell and Modbury.

Conditions at Frogmore remain unsatisfactory and a scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal is badly needed at Challaborough, where the influx of summer visitors to the caravan sites, chalets and bungalows presents serious drainage problems.

MAINTENANCE. Following the report of the Organisation and Methods Consultants and some changes in staff, the opportunity was taken to re-organise the maintenance staff into two separate gangs. The new arrangements are working well, but with new works coming into operation further staff, and/or mechanisation will be necessary. The basic problem is of visiting the numerous works throughout the District on the scheduled maintenance dates. A great number of man hours is lost each year in travelling and I commend the idea of joint schemes where at all possible in the future.

HOUSING.

Progress has been made in dealing with individual unfit dwellings in the district. The number of houses left to be dealt with is relatively small and the houses are scattered throughout the district.

Although it is the Council's policy to re-house tenants from individual unfit dwellings I think we are fortunate insofar as the majority of dwellings are not "lost," but tend to be made fit, in most cases at what appears to be unreasonable costs, by owners wishing to retire to this area or wishing to obtain holiday cottages.

A large number of properties still exist without modern facilities and until such time as legislation empowers Local Authorities to have such property brought up to modern standards, there appears little hope of making much progress.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The number of applications for Improvement Grants during the year showed no marked increase. This is extremely disappointing when one considers the great number of houses existing in the district still without such basic necessities as hot water supply, bathroom, proper food store and readily accessible water closet and further publicity of the schemes for grant aid for modernisation of properties may assist in speeding up this work.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The standard of moveable dwelling sites in the area shows a marked improvement and most site operators have a planned programme of improvement for the next two or three years in order to comply with all requirements of the new Regulations.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The total number of carcasses inspected during the year showed a marked reduction and this was mainly due to the fall in the number of sheep killed.

The number of visits for inspection purposes also showed a substantial reduction. I welcome this, but even so meat inspection continues to take up a great deal of time in the work of the Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

As one expects, the quantity of refuse collected is increasing year by year.

I am sure that the majority of ratepayers will welcome the Council's decision to inaugurate a weekly system of refuse collection next year.

The salvaging of scrap metals continues to bring in a small sum on the credit side of this service, and this is mainly due to the stirring efforts of one of our Councillors.

LITTER.

It is difficult to see if there is any tangible improvement in the litter problem.

A much larger number of receptacles were used last year with resultant higher costs in the employment of local labour. It is quite impractical in an area such as this with numerous beaches open to the public, to provide litter receptacles and a collection service at all points where people congregate and until such time as the public themselves become litter conscious and are prepared to take active steps to report offenders, I believe this problem will remain.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The total number of inspections made during the year showed an increase on that of last year with a substantial increase in the number of visits relating to sewerage and housing, two fields of work in which there remains a great deal to be done.

The number of inspections of food premises showed a further reduction on those of last year, and as the Medical Officer of Health has reported, there is a great deal of work which will have to be done in this sphere.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. COLE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

October, 1963.

APPENDIX.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,350 (estimated).

Rateable Value—£142,388.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£570.9032.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	LIVE BIRTHS.			Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate	160	90	70	15.06
Illegitimate	11	4	7	
	<hr/> 171	<hr/> 94	<hr/> 77	Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births. 6.43

Rate per 1,000 total
live and still births.

Still Births	3	3	—	17.25
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Total live and still births	174	97	77
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INFANT DEATHS (DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE).

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	5	2	3
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 4

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	.....	.....	35.09
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			31.25
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			90.91
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	.....	.....	29.24
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	.....	.....	23.39
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			40.23

Rate per 1,000 total
Deaths. live and still births.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Death Rate per 1,000 of
the estimated population

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
DEATHS	148	80	68	12.34

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	—
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningoccal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	3
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	9	6
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	11	12
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	20	13
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	—
20. Other Heart Disease	8	6
21. Other Circulatory Disease	3	3
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	7	3
24. Bronchitis	3	2
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	2	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	1	8
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—
34. All other Accidents	1	3
35. Suicide	2	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	80	68

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Whooping Cough	.....	2
Measles	.....	1
Scarlet Fever	.....	5
Food Poisoning	.....	1
Erysipelas	.....	1
Dysentery	.....	1
Peurperal Pyrexia	.....	1
Total	.....	12

TUBERCULOSIS.

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN DISTRICT DURING 1962.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—34 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

During the course of the year no action was necessary under the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts for the removal and detention in a County Welfare Establishment for aged persons.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

LICENSED SITES AND CARAVANS.

No. of Sites.	No. of Caravans licensed.	Licensed Individual Caravans.
25	1125	15

13 sites, each with a maximum of five caravans, are exempt by virtue of membership of the Caravan Club.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse	.....	.....	.....	129
Litter Act	.....	.....	.....	19
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	.....	.....	.....	395
Visits in connection with complaints	.....	.....	.....	38
Infectious Disease	.....	.....	.....	11
Inspections of Caravan Sites	.....	.....	.....	66
Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts				351
Streams and Watercourses	.....	.....	.....	19
Food Premises (Shops, Dairies, Hotels, etc.)	.....	.....	.....	32
Public Conveniences	.....	.....	.....	5
Coast Erosion	.....	.....	.....	16
Ice Cream Samples	.....	.....	.....	33
Water Samples	.....	.....	.....	44
Improvement Grants	.....	.....	.....	192
Wrecks of the Sea	.....	.....	.....	4
Slaughter of Animals Act	.....	.....	.....	4
Petroleum Regulations	.....	.....	.....	14
Dangerous Buildings	.....	.....	.....	12
Drainage	.....	.....	.....	185
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	117
Water Supplies	.....	.....	.....	5
Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	17
			Total	1708

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year 712 visits were made to slaughterhouses.

The following carcasses were inspected :

Bulls	.....	.....	.....	4
Cows	.....	.....	.....	364
Heifers	.....	.....	.....	414
Steers	.....	.....	.....	476
Calves	.....	.....	.....	344
Sheep	.....	.....	.....	6690
Pigs	.....	.....	.....	1020
			TOTAL	9312

The total weight of meat condemned was 8 tons 3 cwts.

Diseased meat, etc. is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.

Carcases and Offal inspected and Condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	894	364	344	6690	1020	—
Number inspected	894	364	344	6690	1020	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcases condemned	4	14	6	23	2	—
<hr/>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	217	212	4	365	36	—
<hr/>						
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	24.72	62.08	2.90	5.65	3.72	
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
<hr/>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	21	—
<hr/>						
Percentage of the number inspected and affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	2.05	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	50	14	—	—	—	—
<hr/>						
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	21	5	—	—	—	—
<hr/>						
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

OTHER FOODS.

The following table indicates the number of food premises in the area, by type of business :

Bakehouses	6
Butchers' Shops	12
Fishmongers and Fryers	1
Ice Cream—Retailers	73
General Stores	72
Dairies	7
Restaurants and Cafes	23
Hotels, etc.	60
Inns	40

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS
Act, 1955 ;

Sale of Ice Cream	.....	.....	73
Manufacture of Preserved Food			8
Amount of food condemned during the year	.....	.....	55 lbs.
Number of new registrations under Section 16	.....	.....	5

ICE CREAM SAMPLING :

Grade 1	.....	.....	.....	32
Grade 2	.....	.....	.....	—
Grade 3	.....	.....	.....	1
Grade 4	.....	.....	.....	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT,
1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Health Inspector).

Premises.	No. in Register.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupier Prosecuted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	27	16	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	30	20	—	—

No defects were found.
There are 2 out-workers.

RODENT CONTROL.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				
	NON-AGRICULTURAL		AGRI- CULTURAL		
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses).	All other (inc. Business Premises).	Total of cols (1) (2) and (3).	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	31	4276	448	4755	748
2. Number of properties in- spected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	—	87	14	101	5
(b) Survey under the Act	31	653	63	747	161
(c) Otherwise (<i>e.g.</i> when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	21	19	40	12
3. Total inspections carried out—includ'g re-inspections	226	879	106	1210	192
4. Number of properties in- spected (in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats—Major	7	—	—	7	57
Minor	12	483	27	522	—
(b) Mice—Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	105	15	120	17
5. Number of infested pro- perties (in Sec. 4) treated by the L.A.	19	588	42	649	74
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	83	721	21	825	7
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (<i>i.e.</i> Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of " Block " con- trol schemes carried out	131				

WATER SUPPLIES.

Parish.	No. of Habitable Houses.	No. connected to Water Mains.	Estimated Population served.
Aveton Gifford	220	157	439
Bigbury	196	155	434
Blackawton	165	106	296
Buckland-tout-Saints	53	33	92
Charleton	193	78	218
Chivelstone	143	109	305
Churchstow	94	47	131
East Allington	135	96	268
East Portlemouth	101	71	198
Kingston	113	99	277
Loddiswell	210	176	492
Malborough	262	196	548
Modbury	330	295	826
Ringmore	90	80	224
Sherford	95	57	159
Slapton	156	129	361
South Huish	178	118	330
South Milton	136	114	309
South Pool	90	50	140
Stoke Fleming	280	219	613
Stokenham	517	430	1204
Strete	146	119	333
Thurlestone	265	186	520
West Alvington	180	136	380
Woodleigh	54	33	92
TOTALS	4312	3289	9189

WATER SAMPLES.

Source of Sample.	No. satisfactory.	No. unsatisfactory.	Total.
**South Devon Water Board Mains	411	7	418
Private Supplies	17	20	37
TOTALS	428	27	455

**These figures include samples of water not in supply to consumers.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, 1962.

GRANTS FOR THE CONVERSION OR IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

SECTION 30 HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958.

	Formal applications received.	Applications approved	
	Number of dwellings.	Number of dwellings.	Amount of grant.
(a) Conversions	4	Owner occupied dwellings	2
		Other dwellings	—
(b) Improvements	31	Owner occupied dwellings	9
		Other dwellings	2
			£ 4797

STANDARD GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS UNDER HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

(a) Applications	Formal applications received.		Applications approved.						
		24	Owner occupied dwellings					16	
			Other dwellings					8	
			Number of amenities provided.						
	No. of dwellings.	Total amount.	Bath or shower.	Wash basins.	Hot water.	Water closets.	Food storage.		
Grants paid.	20	£2745	11	8	19	20	19	16	16

HOUSES DEALT WITH AS INDIVIDUAL UNFIT OR SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS.

Represented	.....	20
Confirmed	.....	20
Not confirmed	.....	Nil
Demolished	.....	1
Families re-housed	.....	15

COUNCIL HOUSE PROPERTY. AT 31st DECEMBER, 1962.

	Houses.	Bunga- lows.	Pre-fabs.	Houses Purchased and Re-conditioned.	Totals.
No. of pre-war houses erected	67	2	—	—	69
No. of post-war houses erected up to 1961	423	84	30	4	551
No. of houses completed in 1962	—	15	—	4	19
Houses in course of construction December, 1962	—	9	—	1	10
Totals	490	110	30	9	639

